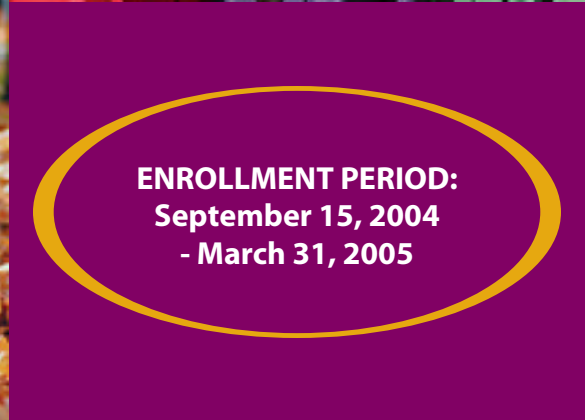


GET your child's future college tuition **TODAY!**



ENROLLMENT PERIOD:
September 15, 2004
- March 31, 2005

www.get.wa.gov

1-877-GET-TUIT (1-877-438-8848)



**Washington State's
529 Prepaid College
Tuition Program**

Important Dates

Annual enrollment period

September 15 – March 31

Your enrollment form must be POSTMARKED or completed online by March 31 to qualify for the current year's unit price.

New unit prices

September 1 and May 1

The GET Program may set a new unit price twice a year. The September 1 unit price is effective September 1 through April 30. The May 1 unit price is effective May 1 through August 31 (for customers with GET accounts). The unit purchase price is the price in effect on the DATE PAYMENT IS RECEIVED (not postmarked).

GET Committee Members

Mooi Lien Wong
Citizen

Elizabeth Stecher Berendt
Citizen

Michael J. Murphy
State Treasurer

Marty Brown
Director, Office of Financial Management

James E. Sulton, Jr., Ph.D., Chair
Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Board

GET Administration

Betty Lochner
Director, Guaranteed Education Tuition Program
Phone: 1-877-GET-TUIT (1-877-438-8848)
Email: GETInfo@hecb.wa.gov
Web site: www.get.wa.gov

Send correspondence to:
GET Program
P.O. Box 43450, Olympia, WA 98504-3450

Send enrollment forms and payments to:
GET Program
P.O. Box 84824, Seattle, WA 98124-6124



The Washington Guaranteed Education Tuition Program, or GET, is a qualified tuition program under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

W A S H I N G T O N
**H I G H E R
E D U C A T I O N**
C O O R D I N A T I N G B O A R D

The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board administers the GET Program while the Washington State Investment Board oversees its investments. The Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment, commonly referred to as the GET Committee, governs the program.

Start Planning for College **Today!**

It is never too early – to start saving for your child's or grandchild's education or training after high school. Washington's Guaranteed Education Tuition Program, or GET, can help.

GET is a prepaid college tuition program that lets you buy tomorrow's college tuition today. You can use your GET account at nearly every college, university, and trade/technical school in the country. You'll pay no taxes on the increased value of your GET account as long as you use the money for qualified education expenses. And best of all, you'll have peace of mind knowing that the money you set aside for college will be safe – and ready when you need it.



It's Easy to Get Started

- **Enroll Online** Visit our Web site at www.get.wa.gov to enroll online.
- **Enroll By Mail** Complete the enclosed enrollment form and mail it in the envelope at the back of this brochure, or download the enrollment form from our Web site.

**The enrollment
deadline for this year's
enrollment period is
March 31.**

Inside

GET the Facts	2
Overview	2
How GET Works	3
Purchase Plans	4
Payment Options	5
Using Your GET Account	6
Cancellations and Refunds	6
GET Started	7
Two Easy Ways to Open Your GET Account	7
Contact Us	7
Comparison of Common College Savings Methods	8
Program Fees	9
Plan Prices	10
Cost of Attending College	11
Calculating When Your Student Can Begin Using GET Benefits	12
History of GET Unit Price Since Program Inception	12
Important Information	13
Frequently Asked Questions	14



GET The Facts

Overview

What is GET? GET, or Guaranteed Education Tuition, is Washington's 529 college prepaid tuition program. GET offers Washington families a safe, easy and affordable way to save for college. GET is the fastest-growing prepaid college tuition program in the country. Since GET began in 1998, Washington families have opened more than 44,000 accounts valued at over \$470 million.

GET accounts are for everyone.

You can open an account for anyone – from newborns to senior citizens, even yourself. The only requirement is that the future student must live in Washington state at the time of enrollment in the Program.

GET accounts grow tax-free.

GET is an IRS Section 529 prepaid tuition plan. GET accounts grow tax-free when the account is used for qualified education expenses. As tuition at Washington's public universities increases, so does the value of your GET account. This increase in value is tax-exempt as long as you use it for tuition, room and board, books and other qualified education expenses. The IRS also allows generous gift and estate tax exemptions for contributions to GET.



"With college costs rising, we needed to lock in tuition at today's rates, so we chose Washington's GET Program."

The Stillings Family, Rainier

GET accounts are affordable.

You may purchase between 1 and 500 units per student, depending on your own budget and needs. You choose the payment plan that works best for you. If your needs or finances change, you may adjust your payment plan.

GET accounts are flexible.

You can use your GET units at over 35,000 public or private colleges, universities, or trade/technical schools in the United States, so your student has many choices for post-high-school education. You may transfer your GET account among family members. And you decide which qualified education expenses you want GET to cover, from tuition and books to room and board.

GET accounts are guaranteed.

Best of all, GET is low risk. GET is 100 percent guaranteed by the State of Washington. The State of Washington guarantees that units purchased today will equal the actual cost of in-state undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the highest-priced Washington public university when your student enrolls in college, regardless of how much tuition has increased.

For example, if you buy 100 units today (equivalent to one academic year of tuition and state-mandated fees at the highest-priced Washington public university), the units will be worth the "actual cost" of one year of tuition and state-mandated fees at the highest priced Washington public university at the time you redeem your units. The value of a unit is determined annually and is the same regardless of whether your student uses it to attend a public college in Washington, a private or out-of-state college, or a trade school.

GET accounts make great gifts.

GET is a great way to give the gift of education for special events in a student's life. Once an account is open, anyone can buy gift units in an account. Coupon books are available for your convenience upon request.

How GET Works

GET works on a unit system. One hundred units are equal to the value of one year of resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees (state-mandated fees include operating, building, and services and activity fees) at the highest-priced public university in Washington.

That means if you buy 100 GET units, the State of Washington guarantees that your units will be worth one year of public resident tuition and state-mandated fees when your student goes to college. If your student goes to a more expensive public or private school, he/she would be responsible for any difference in tuition costs. On the other hand, if your student attends a less expensive school, such as a community college or trade/technical school, your student would have extra funds for other qualified education expenses (books, supplies, and housing).

You may buy up to a total of 500 units – equal to five years of tuition – for each student. As the chart below shows, a student who attends a community college for two years and then a regional college (such as Central Washington University) for two years would need approximately 250 units for tuition. A student who attends the University of Washington or Washington State University for four years would need 400 units. A student who attends a more expensive private or out-of-state college or university for four years would need even more. Since you may use up to 125 GET units in each academic year, you may want to buy additional units to assist in paying for other qualified education expenses.



"Our kids can use their GET accounts at almost any college in the country."

The Rodriguez Family, Sammamish

Program Requirements:

- 1) The student named on the account must be a Washington state resident at the time of enrollment in the Program.
- 2) All GET units must be held for at least two calendar years. Custom Monthly Plans must be open for two calendar years and must be paid in full before benefits may be used. Units in Lump Sum Plans must have been purchased at least two years prior to usage. (See page 4 for a full description of Purchase Plans.)

Important note: GET units are not sold at current tuition rates. The GET unit is priced based on estimates that include future tuition rates. Therefore, it may take longer than two years to recover your initial investment. The younger your student is at the time of enrollment in the Program, the greater your long-term return will be.

Estimated Number of GET Units Required For One Year of Tuition and State-mandated Fees at Washington Public Colleges

Washington Public Colleges	Estimated Number of GET Units
Community and Technical Colleges	45
Central Washington University	78
Eastern Washington University	78
Western Washington University	78
The Evergreen State College	78
University of Washington	100*
Washington State University	100*

* The number of units needed for one year of tuition at a Washington public college or university will never be more than 100.

Although the value of GET units is tied to public undergraduate education at Washington's most expensive public university, GET units may be used for both graduate and undergraduate study at almost any public or private college, university, or trade/technical school in the United States, as well as selected schools around the world. If the student chooses to attend a school that is more expensive than the highest-priced Washington public university, the student is responsible for the additional costs.



Purchase Plans

The GET Program was designed to make it easy for families like yours to save for college. You decide how much you want to save, how often, and how you want to pay. Then choose the purchase plan that works best for you. If your needs or finances change, you may adjust purchase plans and payment options.

- **Custom Monthly Plan**

This plan allows you to buy a certain number of units over a specified number of years. Custom Monthly Plans require a minimum contract of 50 units. The payment period is based on when you plan to begin using your units, up to 18 years in the future.

A Custom Monthly contract freezes the price of units and locks in a monthly payment amount. The monthly payment includes interest at 7.5 percent and remains the same throughout the term of the contract.

If you set up a Custom Monthly Plan, you may always add Lump Sum units at the price in effect at the time of purchase, up to a total of 500 units per student.

To review current Custom Monthly Plan prices, turn to page 10.

- **Lump Sum Plan**

You may buy Lump Sum units whenever you like, contributing any dollar amount you want – up to a total of 500 units per student. You don't even have to buy whole units at a time. However, you must buy a minimum of one unit when you enroll.

When you buy units on the Lump Sum Plan, you will pay the unit price in effect at the time of purchase. Tuition units must be held in the account for at least two calendar years before the student may use them.

The Lump Sum unit price can change twice a year: May 1 and September 1. The current price of \$61 will be in effect through April 30, 2005. To see a Lump Sum pricing table, turn to page 10.



"We enrolled our grandchildren in GET. They can use the funds at almost any college in the country"

Ron & Judy Larson, Duvall

Payment Options

Once you have selected your purchase plan, GET offers several ways to make your payments.

1. Payment Coupons

When you enroll in GET, you will receive payment coupons so you can make your contributions easily and conveniently.

Custom Monthly Plan: Use one coupon each month. Payments are due by the 15th of each month. The same coupon will allow you to add Lump Sum units to the account, if you choose.

Lump Sum Plan: Include one coupon with each contribution.

2. Automatic Withdrawal

You can arrange automatic withdrawals (ACH) from most bank or credit union accounts for any of the plans. Payments are taken out of your account on the 15th of each month. Forms are available on our Web site or by calling the program office. You can also sign up for automatic withdrawal when you enroll online.

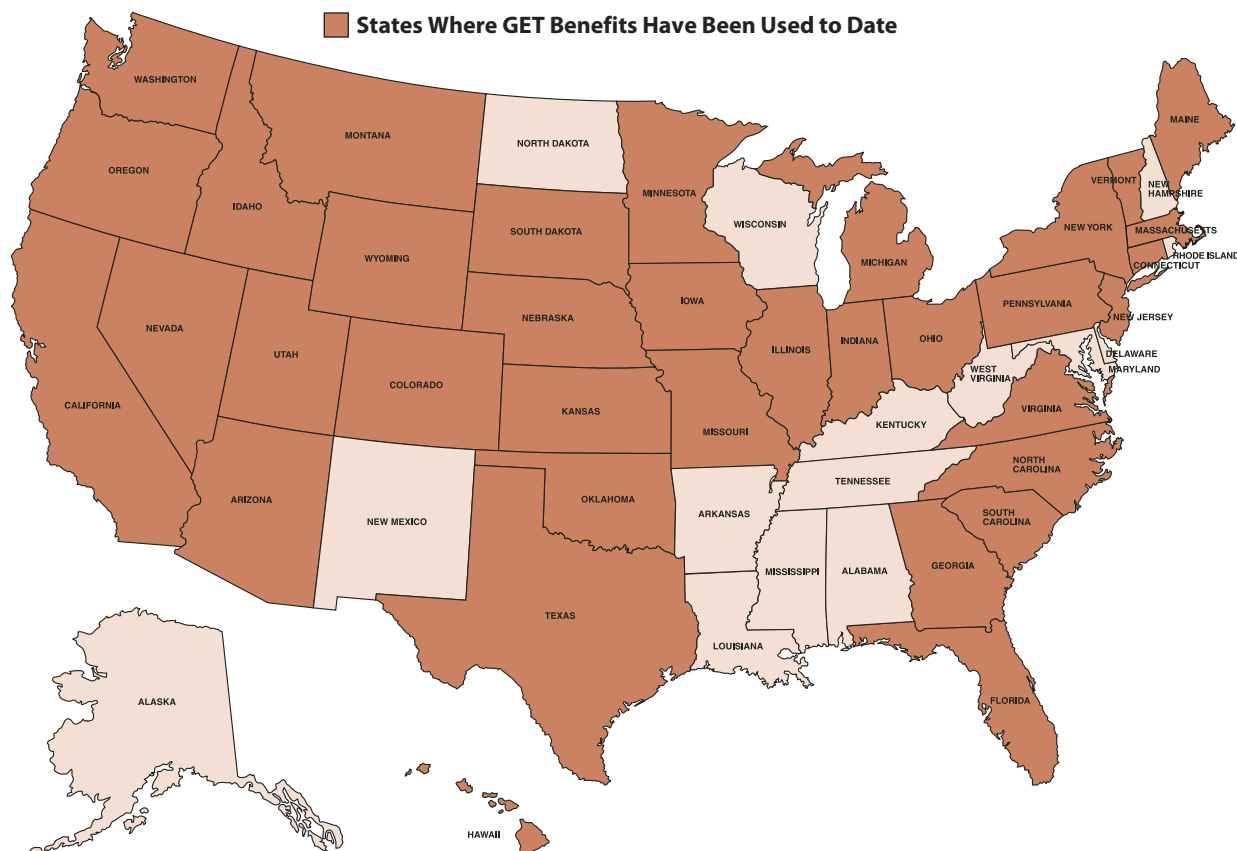
3. Payroll Deduction

Payroll deduction is available for all payment plans if your employer is willing to participate. To set up payroll deduction, check first to see if your employer offers this option. Once you have enrolled in GET, complete and submit a Payroll Deduction Authorization form, available on our Web site. A complete list of participating employers is posted on our Web site. If your employer does not yet participate, encourage your payroll officer to call us for more information. There is no cost to the employer to participate.

4. Online Payments

You may make payments online by using the payment processing service through US Bank. Once you've received confirmation that your GET account has been opened, simply log on to our Web site and follow the instructions to view your account online. US Bank charges a \$1 fee for each payment processed.

GET Benefits Have Been Used in Most States





Using Your GET Account

When it's time for college, your GET account will be ready. As the purchaser of the account, you will receive information about using your account in the spring before your student is ready for college. You may decide to use your units then or wait to use them until a later date. For more information, visit our Web site.

GET accounts can be used to pay tuition and fees at almost any public or private college, university, or technical/trade school in the United States, as well as selected schools in many foreign countries, including Canada. A complete list of all participating schools is available through a link on our Web site.

Custom Monthly Plans must be open for two calendar years and must be paid in full before benefits may be used. Units in Lump Sum Plans must have been purchased at least two years prior to usage.

You may use up to 125 GET units per academic year. Units not used can be rolled over and added to the next year. The GET Program generally makes payments directly to the school. Complete details are available on our Web site.

Cancellations and Refunds

All cancellations and refunds are made according to Washington state law (RCW 28B.95.110) and GET Committee policies. You may request a refund after your account has been open for a minimum of two calendar years, with some exceptions. The \$50 enrollment fee is non-refundable, unless you cancel the account within three days after enrolling.

Exceptions to the two-year waiting period include:

- Cancellations within six months of opening an account
- Accounts of less than \$500
- Death or disability of the student

Other reasons for requesting refunds may include (two-year wait required from date account opened):

- Scholarship: If your student receives a scholarship, you may use your GET account for other college expenses, or receive a refund, without penalty, for the value of up to 125 units per year.
- Graduation or program completion: If your student has remaining units in a GET account upon graduation, you may transfer those units to another family member or request a refund.
- Non-attendance: If your student decides not to attend college, you may transfer units to another family member, hold the units in the account for up to 10 years, or request a refund.
- Financial hardship.

For a list of costs associated with refunds, see page 9. For more information about refunds and cancellations, please review the GET Master Agreement on our Web site, or call Customer Service at 1-877-438-8848.



"With GET, we've locked in the cost of tomorrow's college tuition today."

The Vu-Do Family, Mercer Island

GET Started

Two easy ways to open your GET account now

1. Enroll Online

Visit our Web site at www.get.wa.gov and enroll online. Online enrollment must be completed before midnight on March 31. Enrolling online is the fastest, most efficient way to enroll in GET.

2. Enroll by Mail

Fill out an enrollment form and mail it to the payment address. An enrollment form is included at the back of this brochure. Or you can download a copy of the enrollment form from our Web site.

The annual enrollment period runs from September 15 through March 31.

Important Note: You may use a credit card or debit card to pay the enrollment fee only. You cannot buy units with a credit card or debit card.

Your enrollment form must be **postmarked by March 31**. We strongly advise you to buy Lump Sum units at the same time you enroll, or soon thereafter. It can take four to six weeks to complete the enrollment process. You may not receive confirmation from the GET Program before the unit price increase, scheduled for May 1. **Funds not received by April 30 will be processed at the increased unit price.**

Four to six weeks after enrolling, you will receive an enrollment confirmation. Your confirmation will include your account number and instructions on how to access your account online. Coupons for making payments to your account will be sent separately.



"I am happy that the GET Program gave me the option to attend an out-of-state university."

Tim Hirshberg, Issaquah, University of Arizona

7

Contact Us

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact us.

E-mail

GETInfo@hecb.wa.gov

Telephone

Toll-free: 1-877-GET-TUIT (1-877-438-8848)

Our customer service specialists are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (except state holidays).

Language Line Service

If you speak a language other than English, please call 1-877-438-8848 and request translation services.

Mail:

For correspondence:

GET Program

P.O. Box 43450

Olympia, WA 98504-3450

For enrollment forms and payments:

GET Program

P.O. Box 84824

Seattle, WA 98124-6124



Comparison of Common College Savings Methods

	GET 529 ¹ Prepaid Tuition Plan	529 College Savings Plan	Coverdell ² (Education IRA)	Custodial Account ³ (UGMA/UTMA)
Does this account grow tax-free?	Yes, withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses. ⁴	Yes, withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses.	Yes, withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses or elementary or secondary education.	No, regular tax rules apply.
Who can participate?	The student must be a resident of Washington at the time of enrollment. The purchaser may be an individual, trust, corporation, partnership or other entity. The purchaser does not have to be related to the student or live in Washington.	Depending on individual state requirements, the student may have to be a state resident.	Everyone. Enrollment is discouraged for married couples with a combined Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of between \$190,000 and \$220,000 and singles with an AGI between \$95,000 and \$110,000.	Everyone.
How much can I contribute?	Total units cannot exceed 500 per student.	Varies by state plan. The highest limit is about \$300,000 per student.	\$2,000 annually.	Unlimited.
How can withdrawals be used?	Pay qualified higher education expenses such as tuition, fees, books, room and board, and other costs required for attendance.	Pay qualified higher education expenses. The student must be enrolled at least half-time.	Pay for expenses associated with higher education as well as primary and secondary education; contributions to section 529 Qualified Tuition Plans. Student must be enrolled at least half-time.	Rules vary by state, but withdrawals can be made for any reason. Once the student is of age, he/she gains control of the account.
Can I change student beneficiaries?	Yes, within the immediate family, including cousins.	Yes, within the immediate family, including cousins.	Yes, if the new student is under the age of 30 and the original student gives consent.	No.
Who are the best candidates for this type of account?	Those who prefer a guaranteed return based on the rate of tuition inflation.	Those looking to contribute to a tax-free college fund who want minimal control over investments.	Parents who want maximum control over their investment options and who don't have more than \$2,000 to contribute annually.	Those looking to transfer assets to a young student and who are comfortable turning over control once the student is of age.
Is there a guarantee? How safe is my investment?	Yes. Your account increases along with the rate of tuition inflation. The value of your account increases to match the price of tuition increases.	No. The value of the account is based upon the value of the portfolio at the time of a withdrawal or disbursement.	No. Depending on the type of account (savings/brokerage), the value of the account is dependent on interest earned or value of portfolio at the time of a withdrawal or disbursement.	No. Depending on the type of account (savings/brokerage), the value of the account is dependent on interest earned or value of portfolio at the time of a withdrawal or disbursement.

¹ A qualified state tuition program (QTP) under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. Plans will vary by state.

² A non-deductible plan that, with certain income and contribution limits, allows you to invest for college-related expenses.

³ Accounts with custodial account registration; savings account or investment in mutual funds and individual securities, including stocks, and bonds, on behalf of a minor.

⁴ Qualified higher education expenses: tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment required for enrollment or attendance, and in most cases room and board.

Program Fees

Type of Fee	Amount
Enrollment Fee (non-refundable) Late Payment Fee For Custom Monthly Plan payments more than 15 days late. (All payments are due on the 15th of each month.) NSF/Returned Check Payment Fee (Automatic withdrawal (ACH), checks, credit cards) Cancellation and Refund Fees: Account Cancellation Fee For all cancellations except in the event of death, disability, non-attendance, or graduation/completion of higher education program. Penalties and Taxes Assessed on all refunds except in the event of death, disability, scholarship, non-attendance, or graduation/completion of higher education program. Important Note: Account earnings on non-qualified refunds – those not used for higher education – will not be exempt from federal taxes. In addition to state refund fees, you may be required to pay a 10 percent federal tax penalty and pay federal income tax on the increased value of your GET account. The GET Program will issue a 1099 form to the Purchaser for all refunds and distributions. Account Maintenance Fee Assessed on refunds only.	\$50 per account \$100 maximum per family To qualify for the maximum family enrollment fee of \$100, all of the following must apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than two accounts are being opened • The purchaser is the same on all accounts • The students named on the accounts live at the same address If one purchaser opens more than one account for the same student, an enrollment fee is charged on the initial account only. \$10 \$15 \$10 10 percent of increased value of account or \$100, whichever is greater \$1.70 for each month the account was open and active
For Organizations and Businesses: Scholarship Set-up Fee (non-refundable) Student Account Transfer Fee Assessed each time the organization or business transfers units from the master account to a named student account (per student account).	\$100 per master account \$25

"We like GET because it's guaranteed and grows tax-free."

The Thomson Family, Puyallup





Plan Prices (Unit price \$61)

Custom Monthly Plan

2004-05 Enrollment Period

Projected College Entrance Year	Payment Term (in years)	Number of Units Purchased and Monthly Cost									
		50 Units	100 Units	150 Units	200 Units	250 Units	300 Units	350 Units	400 Units	450 Units	500 Units
Fall 2007	1	\$268	\$533	\$799	\$1,065	\$1,331	\$1,597	\$1,863	\$2,129	\$2,394	\$2,660
Fall 2007	2	140	277	415	553	690	828	966	1,104	1,241	1,379
Fall 2008	3	97	192	287	382	477	572	668	763	858	953
Fall 2009	4	76	149	223	297	371	445	519	593	666	740
Fall 2010	5	63	124	185	246	307	369	430	491	552	613
Fall 2011	6	55	107	160	213	265	318	371	423	476	529
Fall 2012	7	49	95	142	189	235	282	329	375	422	469
Fall 2013	8	44	86	128	171	213	255	297	340	382	424
Fall 2014	9	41	79	118	157	196	234	273	312	351	390
Fall 2015	10	38	74	110	146	182	218	254	290	326	362
Fall 2016	11	36	69	103	137	171	205	238	272	306	340
Fall 2017	12	34	66	98	130	162	194	226	258	290	322
Fall 2018	13	32	63	93	124	154	184	215	245	276	306
Fall 2019	14	31	60	89	118	147	177	206	235	264	293
Fall 2020	15	30	58	86	114	142	170	198	226	254	282
Fall 2021	16	29	56	83	110	137	164	191	218	245	272
Fall 2022	17	28	54	80	107	133	159	185	212	238	264
Fall 2023	18	27	53	78	104	129	155	180	206	231	257

Note: The total contract price is determined at the time you set up the Custom Monthly contract. If you choose to pay off your Custom Monthly contract early, the payoff amount is typically the monthly payment multiplied by the remaining months. However, there is no financial advantage to paying off the account early. The monthly payment includes interest at 7.5 percent.

Lump Sum Plan

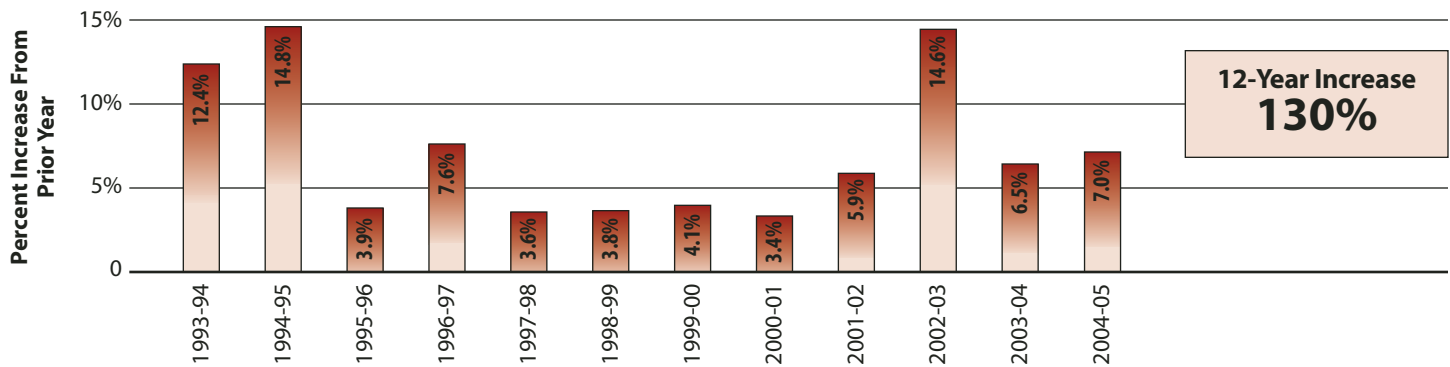
2004-05 Enrollment Period

Number of Units Purchased	Cost Per Unit	Total
50 units	\$61 per unit	\$3,050
100 units	\$61 per unit	\$6,100
150 units	\$61 per unit	\$9,150
200 units	\$61 per unit	\$12,200
250 units	\$61 per unit	\$15,250
300 units	\$61 per unit	\$18,300
350 units	\$61 per unit	\$21,350
400 units	\$61 per unit	\$24,400
450 units	\$61 per unit	\$27,450
500 units	\$61 per unit	\$30,500

These are examples only.
You may buy between one and 500 units at \$61 per unit.

Cost of Attending College

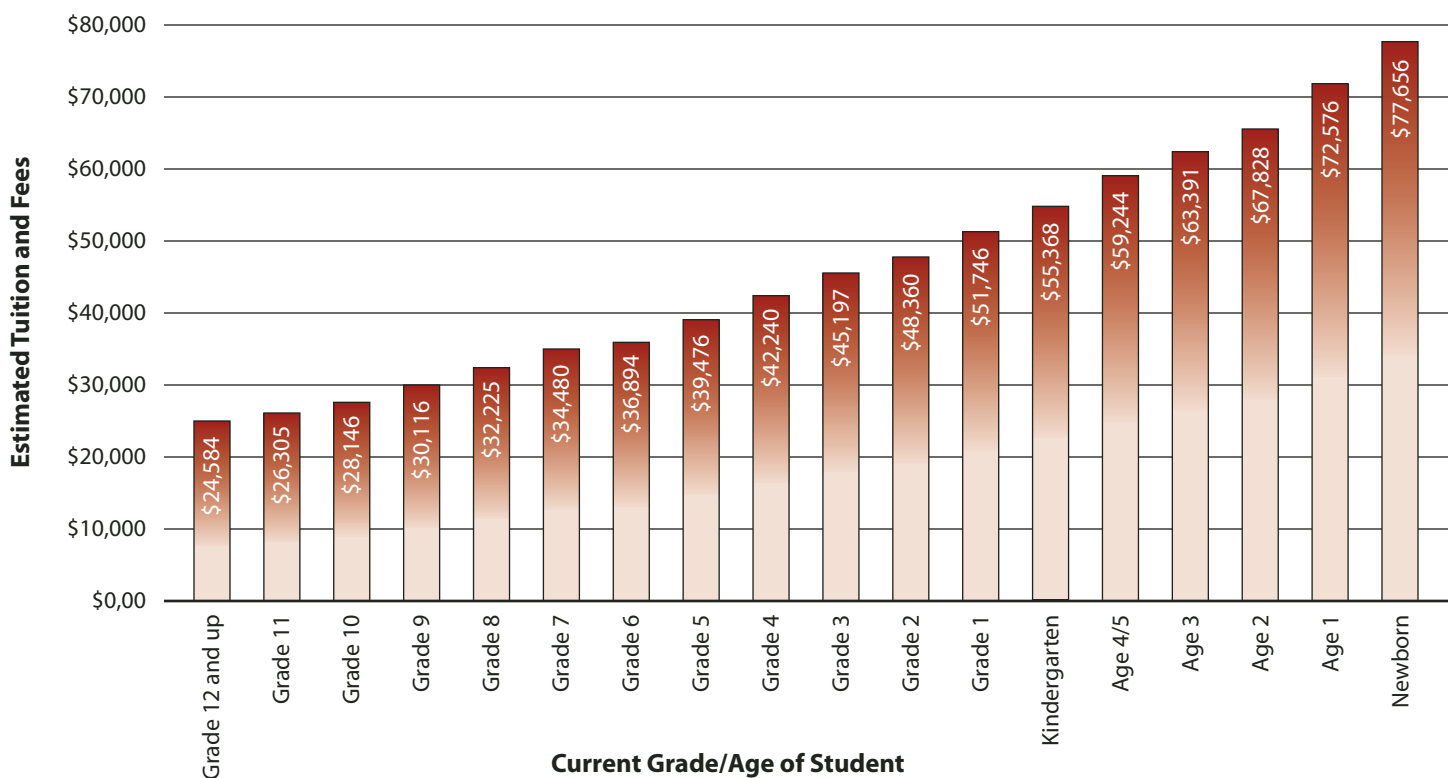
12-Year History of Tuition and Fee Increases in Washington



*Fees refer to services and activity fees and other mandatory fees

Source: Washington State Tuition and Fee Report, Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board

Estimated Increases in Tuition and Fees for a 4-year Degree at a Washington Public University



Tuition and Fees calculation based on Washington average annual tuition increase of 7 percent; other expenses based on 3 percent annual inflation rate.

NOTE: Total cost (all expenses) of attendance at a Washington public university is currently estimated at \$75,000 for a 4-year degree, and is expected to rise to over \$200,000 in 18 years.



Calculating When Your Student Can Begin Using GET Benefits

Student Age/Grade as of August 31, 2004	Expected College Entrance Year
Newborn, less than Age 1	Fall 2022
Age 1	Fall 2021
Age 2	Fall 2020
Age 3	Fall 2019
Age 4/5*	Fall 2018
Kindergarten.....	Fall 2017
1st Grade	Fall 2016
2nd Grade	Fall 2015
3rd Grade.....	Fall 2014
4th Grade.....	Fall 2013
5th Grade.....	Fall 2012
6th Grade.....	Fall 2011
7th Grade.....	Fall 2010
8th Grade.....	Fall 2009
9th Grade.....	Fall 2008
10th Grade.....	Fall 2007
11th Grade.....	Fall 2007**
12th Grade and Adults	Fall 2007**

* Students who are 5 years of age, but will not start kindergarten until next year.

** Washington law requires a two-year wait before benefits may be used.

Custom Monthly Plans purchased this year will be available, if paid in full, for Fall 2007.



Brandon Tremper, student at Bates Technical College

"Not everyone has a four-year university in mind, so when I found out that my son could use his benefits at our local technical college we were thrilled. GET made it very easy to get his schooling started and now Brandon is fulfilling his dream of becoming a firefighter!"

Lisa Tremper, Puyallup

History of GET Unit Price Since Program Inception

Enrollment Year	Unit Price
1998-1999	\$35
1999-2000	\$38
2000-2001	\$41
2001-2002	\$42
Sept. 1, 2002 - April 30, 2003.....	\$52
May 1, 2003 – April 30, 2004.....	\$57
May 1, 2004 – April 30, 2005	\$61*

*Current unit price

Important Information

2004-05 Enrollment Year Lump Sum Unit Price

Current Unit Price: \$61, effective for payments received through April 30, 2005.

Important Dates

For New Accounts

- September 15, 2004** The 2004-05 enrollment period begins. You may open new Custom Monthly or Lump Sum accounts at the \$61 unit price.
- March 31, 2005** The 2004-05 enrollment period ends. If you enroll by mail, your enrollment form **must be postmarked no later than March 31**. If you enroll online, you must **complete your online enrollment by midnight on March 31**.
- Note: Due to the large number of people who enroll online during the last week of the enrollment period, we cannot guarantee that you will have uninterrupted access to online enrollment. To avoid frustration, please enroll early.

For Existing Accounts

(Opened by March 31, 2005)

- April 30, 2005** If you have an account, you can buy units at the \$61 price through April 30. **We must RECEIVE your payment on or before April 30, 2005. A postmark CANNOT be accepted.**
- May 1, 2005** The GET Program may adjust the unit price for Lump Sum payments made after April 30, 2005.
- August 31, 2005** Last day to purchase Lump Sum units at the rate that took effect May 1, 2005. Payments **received** after this date will be processed at the new rate in effect on September 1, 2005.
- September 1, 2005** The GET Program will set a new price for the 2005-06 enrollment period.

For More Information

If you have questions or need more information, please contact us at 1-877-438-8848 or by e-mail at GETInfo@hecb.wa.gov.





Frequently Asked Questions

Following are some of the most commonly asked questions about the GET Program. We have posted additional questions and answers on our Web site. Please visit our Web site at www.get.wa.gov, call us toll-free at 1-877-438-8848 or send us an e-mail at GETInfo@hecb.wa.gov.

Where can I use my GET account?

GET accounts can be used at almost any public or private college, university, or trade/technical school in the country, as well as selected schools in foreign countries. For a link to a complete list of schools, visit our Web site.

What expenses can my GET account pay for?

You can use your account to pay for your student's tuition at almost any college, university, or trade/technical school in the United States and a few other countries. You also can use it for room and board, supplies, books, and other qualified education expenses.

What if my student doesn't go to college?

You have three options: (1) Wait to see if the student changes his or her mind. The student has up to 10 years after high school graduation to begin using the account. (2) Transfer the account to another family member. (3) Request a refund. If you select a refund, penalties and fees may be assessed.

What if my student receives a scholarship?

If the scholarship covers tuition and fees, you can use GET units to cover room and board, books and other qualified education expenses. You may also defer use of the account, transfer the units to another family member, or request a refund for the scholarship amount—up to 125 units per academic year—without penalty.

Do I need separate accounts for each student I want to enroll in GET?

Yes, you need to open a separate account by completing an individual enrollment form for each student.

Can two people act as joint purchasers of a GET account?

No, each account can have only one designated purchaser. Although anyone can contribute to an account, only the designated purchaser can request changes to an account or request a refund.

Why is it important to designate a survivor for a GET account?

One of the benefits of saving for college through the GET Program is that a purchaser can set aside funds for a student's education without relinquishing control over those funds. If the purchaser of a GET account dies, the designated survivor takes control of the account. If there is no survivor designated on the account, the student will be named as purchaser and take control of the account. If the student is a minor, a guardian will need to be designated.

What is the purpose of designating an "Information Release" person?

GET cannot release account information to unauthorized individuals. An Information Release person can contact us and receive verbal information about an account. He or she will not be able to receive information or confirmation regarding USER ID and PIN numbers for online access and cannot make changes to the account or request a refund.

Does a GET account guarantee college admission or in-state tuition?

No. Having a GET account does not affect your student's chances of getting into a particular college or his/her eligibility for in-state tuition rates.

Can we still use our GET account if we move out of state?

Yes, the only requirement is the student must live in Washington state at the time of enrollment in GET. Units may be used at in-state and out-of-state, public and private colleges and universities.

The value of your units will be equal to the highest tuition rate at a public institution in the State of Washington at the time. This amount may not be enough to cover the entire cost of an out-of-state public or private institution, and the student will be responsible for the difference.

Can a GET account be used for graduate school?

Yes. GET accounts can be used for graduate school, medical school, law school and many other higher education programs. However, if the tuition is higher than the resident undergraduate tuition at Washington's most expensive public university, the student will need to pay the difference.

Can a GET account pay for Running Start costs?

No. State law prohibits GET accounts from being used for any expenses related to the Running Start program. (Washington's Running Start program allows high school students to take college classes and earn high school and college credits.)

What impact will participation in the GET Program have on my student's eligibility for financial aid?

The investment value of prepaid tuition plans, such as the GET Program, is currently not reported as an asset of either the account holder or the student on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. However, colleges and universities are required by federal law to count the

annual value of benefits paid by the GET Program, dollar-for-dollar, as a resource available to help pay for college costs. Therefore, GET benefits may reduce eligibility for need-based student financial aid.

In many cases, the effect of participating in the program will reduce the need for student loans, helping students avoid the burden of high loan payments after college graduation.

Within the next year or two, Congress is scheduled to review the federal law that specifies how eligibility for financial aid is determined. Because of that review, the way in which prepaid tuition plans affect eligibility for financial aid may be reconsidered.

If I sign up for a specific Custom Monthly Plan now, and later decide I would like to purchase more units, what can I do?

You have two options:

- 1) If the enrollment period during which you established your contract has closed, you can set up a second Custom Monthly Plan during a future enrollment period. The new contract will be priced at the new unit rate.
- 2) You can buy additional units as Lump Sum purchases in your existing account. You can make one Lump Sum purchase or make a series of Lump Sum purchases, whenever you have a little extra cash. These purchases will be at the unit price in effect at the time of each purchase.

If I choose to buy units through a Lump Sum Plan, how do I buy more units?

If you purchased fewer than 500 units, you will receive a coupon book for future purchases. If you have designated any giftors on the account, they also will receive coupon books for future gift purchases. You do not need to complete a new enrollment form.

Since units are valued at 1/100 of tuition at the highest priced public university in Washington (UW or WSU), what happens if my student attends a lower-priced school, such as a regional university or community college?

If your student attends a less expensive state regional university (Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Western Washington University, or The Evergreen State College), you would need approximately 78 units to cover the cost of one year's tuition. If your student attends a state community or technical college, you would need approximately 45 units for one year's tuition. You then could use the remaining units to pay other education expenses, or save them for use in the future.

You can use extra GET units for books, room and board, or off-campus housing expenses (up to \$2,500). You can use up to 125 eligible GET units per academic year.



"Having a GET account meant our daughter could study in New Zealand for a quarter and still complete her degree without student loans."

The Lussy/Jones Family, Seattle

What are state-mandated fees?

State-mandated fees are fees allowed by state law and charged to every student in the state. They include operating, building, and services and activities fees. They DO NOT include institutionally-mandated fees that may be required at each individual school.

Schools may impose their own fees such as technology fees, library fees, recreation fees, and fees to secure repayment of bonded indebtedness. These fees are not considered state-mandated fees and, therefore, are not included when determining the value of your units. However, you may use your GET units to pay these additional fees if you have extra units available after paying tuition and state-mandated fees.

How is the GET unit price determined?

The unit price is calculated from an actuarial formula that incorporates several factors, including the current cost of tuition, estimated future tuition costs, inflation, investment returns, reserve funds and administrative costs for the program.

Since the program guarantees that it will cover the cost of future tuition, the unit price must be set to ensure that there will be sufficient funds for all future payouts. The unit price may be adjusted twice a year, on May 1 and September 1.

How is the value of GET units determined?

The unit value is determined annually after August 1. The value is based on the actual tuition and state-mandated fees at the highest-priced Washington public university for that academic year, with 100 units equal to that specific rate. For example, in the 2004-05 academic year, Washington State University (WSU) has the highest tuition of all Washington public colleges and universities. WSU's 2004-05 undergraduate full-time tuition and state-mandated fees are \$5,154. Therefore, 100 units are equivalent to \$5,154 (or \$51.54 per unit) for all students using their units during the 2004-05 academic year, regardless of which college, university or trade school the student attends.



Why is the current GET unit purchase price higher than the GET unit payout value?

The unit price is higher than the current payout value to cover operating expenses and to keep the program actuarially sound. GET is a nonprofit, self-sustaining program. The program receives no ongoing appropriations from the Legislature. The cost of a GET unit is based on several elements, including expected tuition increases, inflation, investment returns, administrative costs, and a reserve that will assist in periods of fluctuating returns or higher-than-average tuition increases.

What if I can't make my monthly payment?

You may be able to reduce your payment by lowering the number of units you are purchasing, extending your payment term (if possible) or converting your contract to a Lump Sum Plan. Contact Customer Service for more information.

Can I open a GET prepaid account and another Section 529 savings account?

Yes. You can open more than one Section 529 account for the same student. Since GET is designed to cover primarily tuition and fees, it may make sense to open another Section 529 savings account to save for room and board and other college expenses. For more information about how the GET Program compares with other college savings vehicles, turn to page 8.

Can I redeem Series I or EE U.S. Savings Bonds to buy GET units?

Yes. Federal law allows you to redeem Series I or EE United States Savings Bonds issued after December 31, 1989 to buy units in the GET Program. You must liquidate your bonds and forward the funds to your GET account. This may be a taxable transaction. For more information on redeeming the savings bonds, visit the U.S. Department of Treasury Web site at www.publicdebt.treas.gov.

Can I buy GET units with funds from an existing UGMA or UTMA account?

Funds invested in a UGMA or UTMA account belong to the minor and the custodian has a legal obligation to use the funds solely for the benefit of the minor. To maintain the proper ownership of these funds, a GET account should have the minor as both the purchaser and the student beneficiary. You will need to name a guardian or trustee to manage the account on the minor's behalf. Once you have set up your GET account, you can liquidate the UGMA or UTMA account and send the funds to the GET Program. Please consult your tax advisor because this may be a taxable transaction.

Additional questions and answers are available on the GET Web site: www.get.wa.gov. For more information, call us toll-free: 1-877-438-8848.



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